

REMARKS

Claims 4-6, 8, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 36-40, 42-63, 65-75, 77-84, 87-92, and 131-133 are pending in the application of which claims 29, 52, 55, 60, 67, 72, 77-82 and 88 are allowed, and claims 4-6, 8, 23, 24, 28, 33, 36-40, 42-51, 53, 54, 56-59, 61-63, 65, 66, 68-71, 73-75, 83, 84, 87, 89-92 and 131-133 are rejected. Claim 84 is objected to.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and objections in view of the amendment and remarks contained herein.

Applicants acknowledge allowed claims 29, 52, 55, 60, 67, 72, 77-82 and 88.

Claim 84 is amended to include the features of base claim 83 and is presently deemed allowable.

Claims 4-6, 8, 23, 24, 28, 29, 33, 36-40, 42-51, 53, 54, 56-59, 61-63, 65, 66, 68-71, 73-75, 83, 87, 89-92 and 131-133 are canceled. Applicants reserve the right to present the canceled claims in a continuation application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The rejected claims, 4-6, 8, 13, 23, 24, 28, 32, 33, 36-40, 42-51, 53, 54, 56-59, 61-63, 65, 66, 68-71, 73-75, 83, 87, 89-92 and 131-133 have been canceled. Therefore, the rejections under §§102 and 103 have been rendered moot.

Claim 84 was amended to include the features of canceled claim 83. No new matter was added. Claim 84 is also deemed allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejections in this case, thereby placing the Application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

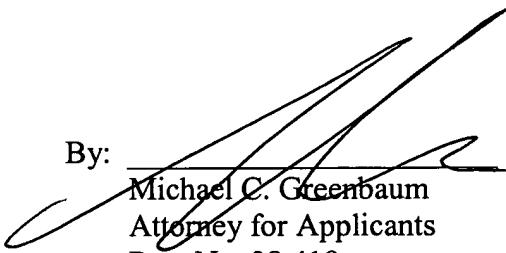
If any fees under 35 U.S.C. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with is filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000309-00212).

If an extension of tiem under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed werewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account 23-2185 (000309-00212). Any fee due is authorized above.

Respectfully Submitted,

BLANK ROME LLP

By:


Michael C. Greenbaum
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,419

The Watergate
600 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20037
Telephone: (202) 772-5800
Facsimile: (202) 572-8398

Date: March 3, 2004